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EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

AFTER thirty years of devoted and gratuitous service the original editorial board of RHODORA has asked to be relieved of the responsibility of carrying on the journal; and a new board, containing only one of the original editors, has been appointed by the Council of the New England Botanical Club. With this change in the management of the journal it is appropriate to summarize very briefly the accomplishments of thirty years.

The cover of Volume 1, no. 1, issued January 2, 1899, enumerated the board: BENJAMIN LINCOLN ROBINSON, Editor-in-Chief; FRANK SHIPLEY COLLINS, MERRITT LYNDON FERNALD and HOLLIS WEBSTER, Associate Editors; WILLIAM PENN RICH and EDWARD LOTHROP RAND, Publication Committee. The cover of Volume 30, no. 360 (December, 1928) contains four of these names, the original board having lost by death Collins in 1920 and Rand in 1924. Collins's place on the board was filled in June, 1920 by the selection of LINCOLN WARE RIDDLE, whose promising career was cut short in January, 1921; and in 1923 CARROLL WILLIAM DODGE took the place on the board left vacant after Riddle's death. The position of Rand was not filled. Thus, in its first thirty years RHODORA has been conducted by essentially the same board of editors; and, although to those who have followed the journal from the start the devotion of the original board has been repeatedly apparent, the new board of editors cannot take up its duties without realizing the difficulties it will encounter in emulating the constant attention to technique and proper presentation which have characterized the time-consuming and too often thankless editorial work of Dr. Robinson and the tedious and uncomplaining labor behind the scenes of Mr. Rich in personally sending out to subscribers all the copies of 360 numbers of the journal.

Those who knew the earlier days of RHODORA will also remember the great debt of the board to Collins, Webster and Rand, faithful attendants at all editorial meetings, judicious critics and advisers in editorial details and ready contributors to the pages of the journal.

The first thirty volumes contain 6698 pages of botanical matter, averaging 256 pages per volume; the smallest, of 207 pages, Vol. 22, immediately followed by the largest, Vol. 23 with 318 pages. The following statistics covering these volumes clearly show certain trends.

Volume	Pages	Articles	Contributors (old and new)	New Contrib- utors each year	New Botanical Plates ¹	New Names
1 (1899)	246	116	59	(59)	11	30
2 (1900)	260	114	60	17	11	33
3 (1901)	315	103	59	31	13	57
4 (1902)	268	126	68	29	6	32
5 (1903)	308	88	40	17	10	71
6 (1904)	254	89	51	12	11	35
7 (1905)	286	71	38	14	5	84
8 (1906)	246	74	33	8	8	138
9 (1907)	252	62	41	13	4	59
10 (1908)	234	74	49	14	2	210
11 (1909)	254	77	39	9	5	33
12 (1910)	245	65	31	5	2	41
13 (1911)	269	85	44	12	10	32
14 (1912)	254	84	46	11	6	31
15 (1913)	240	82	46	9	6	59
16 (1914)	225	74	35	8	6	67
17 (1915)	252	66	36	9	3	87
18 (1916)	269	61	35	9	8	146
19 (1917)	288	71	36	11	4	106
20 (1918)	220	64	29	7	3	86
21 (1919)	234	65	30	7	2	113
22 (1920)	207	57	28	8	2	51
23 (1921)	318	46	33	8	7	101
24 (1922)	259	45	31	4	5	73
25 (1923)	236	57	29	8	2	73
26 (1924)	249	61	36	8	9	62
27 (1925)	224	52	23	8	5	104
28 (1926)	260	46	30	8	3	63
29 (1927)	268	53	36	10	3	21
30 (1928)	258	60	39	17	19	90
Total	6698	2188	1190	399	191	2188
Range	207-318	45-126	23-68	4-31	2-19	21-210
Average	256	73	40	12	6	73

From this summary it is at once apparent that during its first four years RHODORA published, on the average, 115 articles by 61 or 62 contributors in each volume; but that after the fourth year the number

¹ Including unnumbered portraits.

both of articles and of contributors quickly fell to an average for the next twelve years of 77 articles by 41 contributors per volume, and again in the remaining fourteen years to an average of 57 articles by 32 contributors. This decrease is, of course, due largely to two factors: first, the early publication of a great number of brief notes from amateur collectors and observers who, at the end of four years, had seriously depleted their list of noteworthy items; second, the gradual increase of longer monographic papers and extended studies now often continued through two or more numbers. Thus, in the fourth volume (with the maximum number of articles as well as of contributors) there were ninety-five notes or brief articles, from a single paragraph to two pages in length, and only two articles of ten or more pages; but twenty years later, Volume 24 (with the minimum number of articles) had only eighteen papers under two pages in length but nine long articles, of ten to thirty pages each.

It will be noticed that practically 400 (399) different botanists have contributed articles to RHODORA. In addition 45 of these authors have also contributed plates; but besides these authors whose names have appeared on the title-page, thirteen artists, draughtsmen and photographers have furnished plates, mostly without charge and often in large number. Such authors of plates, added to those who have supplied the text, give us 412 individuals who have furnished the scientific matter in the first thirty volumes. These generous contributors of plates, whose names have not appeared either on title-pages or in indices, are: Blanche Ames, R. C. Collins, Anna Q. Churchill, C. E. Faxon, G. B. Fessenden, W. R. Fisher, Edna L. Hyatt, A. M. Johnson, E. H. Lincoln, F. S. Mathews, L. H. Merrill, R. E. Torrey, Una F. Weatherby.

From the editorial viewpoint there is special satisfaction in having a group of collaborators who can be relied upon to submit articles at frequent intervals, and it is gratifying to note that the retiring board was able so to rely upon a substantial group of authors. Outside the editorial board, whose pens or erasers were evident in all volumes, 20 botanists contributed to at least one-third (10) of the volumes, 1 of them (Evans) to 20, 1 (Deane) to 22, and 1 (Knowlton) to 27. Such loyalty deserves special acknowledgment and these most faithful supporters of RHODORA should at least be here enumerated: H. H. Bartlett, C. H. Bissell, S. F. Blake, Ezra Brainerd, E. B. Chamberlain, J. F. Collins, Walter Deane, E. H. Eames, A. W.

Evans, Emily F. Fletcher, Nellie F. Flynn, E. B. Harger, C. H. Knowlton, Bayard Long, F. Schuyler Mathews, A. S. Pease, C. S. Sargent, C. A. Weatherby, K. M. Wiegand, R. W. Woodward. Only limit of space prevents the enumeration of others who contributed extensively to a smaller number of volumes.

Fifty-six years ago, William H. Leggett, the founder of the pioneer *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club*, in directing attention to the then young fields of plant anatomy and plant physiology, said: "Many causes have led botanists in America to give their attention more particularly to the systematic part of the science; but this field has been so well worked, and is so full of workers, that there is little room for any new comer to add much to our knowledge in this department." Leggett was giving voice to an impression which soon became a common one in America, especially among those whose enthusiasm was fired by the lure of microscopic technique and laboratory experiments but who soon forgot the need of knowing the exact identities and the phylogenetic, ecological and geographic relations of the plants with which they dealt. It is now clear, however, that there have been abundant opportunities for all new comers and that the fields of systematic and geographic botany, even in the areas naturally centering about New York and Boston, are far from exhausted. This statement has been vividly demonstrated by the publication in the thirty volumes of RHODORA of nearly 2200 novelties, chiefly from northeastern America; and by the notable fact that, although the pages of RHODORA have been freely open to every field of botany, all but a dozen at most of the 400 authors submitting papers for publication have been students of the systematic and geographic fields or of the natural history of plants. The real demand for a journal such as RHODORA is further attested by two striking facts: first, that, although the full issues of 600 copies were printed and additional issues of 500 reprints each were sent out, the demand in Europe as well as America for several papers of broad systematic, phytogeographic or geological interest has been such that the surpluses are exhausted and it may prove desirable again to issue reprints; second, that, far from being a journal of local New England interest and influence, RHODORA is regularly consulted in the libraries and herbaria of 33 Old World botanists, botanical institutions or universities, and in Dr. Eric Hultén's great work on the flora of Kamtchatka (certainly as remote from New England as any region

of the northern hemisphere), now being issued from Stockholm, references to papers published in *RHODORA* are surprisingly numerous. The period of general indifference to systematic and geographic botany is, then, rapidly passing and these subjects are again being recognized as fundamental to intelligent pursuit of the other branches of botany; and it has been repeatedly demonstrated of late that these old and neglected fields are full of unexplored paths and have many contacts with other fields long supposed to be separated from them by impassible barriers. Consequently, instead of being "well worked" with little opportunity "to add much to our knowledge," they are proving to be almost unexplored and peculiarly fruitful sources of discoveries and of far-reaching deductions.

With this optimistic belief the new board takes up *RHODORA* well pleased to note that, whereas in 1922 only 4 new botanists joined the ranks of contributors, the number of new authors increased in 1923 to 8, in 1927 to 10 and in 1928 to 17. If this rate of increase can be maintained we may look forward to a general use of the pages of the journal comparable with the happy state from 1899 to 1902. The New England Botanical Club, which sponsors *RHODORA*, itself contains approximately 225 members, selected because of their intelligent interest in our flora and the problems connected with it. Nevertheless, 104 members have never seen their names on the title-page of *RHODORA*. Whether the journal can continue to increase its contributing constituency depends very largely upon the Club itself.

The pages of *RHODORA* are not reserved, however, for members of the Club. They are freely open to all who care to use them, especially for the publication of tersely stated notes on range-extensions or new or unrecorded facts regarding habits, morphology, habitats or other features of interest to students of all plants (both vascular and cellular) or the natural history of plants. Systematic revisions and monographs of groups represented in the flora of northeastern America will be welcomed for editorial consideration and well-written and descriptive (but not prolix) accounts of explorations, containing a good share of new or significant observations, will be gladly considered. Mere lists without clear statement of the significance of the records are less desirable. Illustrations of new species and of newly recognized diagnostic characters are most desirable and in so far as limited resources allow they will be favorably consid-

ered for publication. Photographs of landscapes, unless they are remarkably sharp and of patent significance to the discussion, are undesirable for reproduction and, in general, RHODORA cannot commit itself to publish them. In such matters as nomenclature, punctuation, capitalization of specific names, modes of bibliographical citation, and other matters of form, contributors have full power to follow personal preferences, provided their usage is consistent with itself. Manuscripts which show serious lack of consistency will necessarily be returned for correction. In case of misquotations, erroneous citations and other inaccurate details in manuscripts the editors will naturally make corrections of obvious errors. They cannot, however, be expected specially to check such matters and it will be inferred that authors have themselves verified such essential details. Neither can the editorial board be held responsible, as some readers have heretofore supposed them to be, for all statements and conclusions presented by different authors. In the case of controversial subjects, with the desire to present both sides of a question, papers may be accepted for publication, though not representing the views of the editors.

When, thirty years ago, the board was seeking a suggestive and brief name for the new journal, Edward Rand, realizing that a technical scientific journal must frequently ask for financial aid from its sponsors, suggested *Taxus*; but it became evident that such a title, staring the subscribers in the face each month, would ultimately prove detrimental to the subscription list. One reason for originally selecting the name RHODORA, was the range of the shrub bearing that colloquial name: Labrador and Newfoundland to western Quebec, south to Pennsylvania. Any well-prepared and new material on the flora of this area is obviously appropriate for RHODORA; but the geographic limits covered by the journal are elastic and, space permitting, material from outside this area will be gladly considered.

THE APPLICATION OF THE TERM "RHIZOME."

THEO. HOLM.

(Plates 177 and 178.)

It is a common fact that the subterranean organs of reproduction are either passed by in silence or incompletely described in Botanical